

Mark Speakman Minister for the Environment Minister for Heritage Assistant Minister for Planning

MEDIA RELEASE

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NSW GOVERNMENT FULFILS ELECTION COMMITMENT TO SECURE LAND FOR BRISBANE WATER NATIONAL PARK

Environment Minister Mark Speakman has announced the completion of the acquisition of land for the 77-hectare extension to the Brisbane Water National Park at Kariong.

It was a key NSW Government election commitment to purchase this environmentally and culturally sensitive land to add to the National Park.

"The completed acquisition of the final Bambara Road blocks shows the Government is committed to this state's conservation and cultural heritage," Mr Speakman said.

"It acknowledges the widespread interest to see this land protected."

Extending the national park means there is more protection for many of the Aboriginal sites along the Woy Woy Road ridgeline and in the Kariong area.

Brisbane Water National Park covers 12,000 hectares and includes two Aboriginal Places: The Kariong Sacred Land and Bulgandry Art Site.

Mr Speakman said the protection of this land was important to the local community and local Aboriginal groups, who have a long-established connection to a number of cultural sites on the land.

"The Government purchased the land because the local community has such a deep and significant connection to the land. We need to conserve and protect it for future generations," he said.

"The land is also spiritually and culturally significant to Aboriginal people."

Mr Speakman congratulated the Office of Environment and Heritage and Gosford City Council for negotiating the voluntary sale of all seven blocks.

"I am confident the National Parks and Wildlife Service will continue to conserve these lands with the community for people to enjoy," he said.